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IASC News

News and Highlights from the IASC Community

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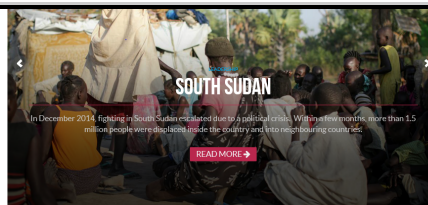

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LATEST NEWS

IASC ad hoc Working Group meeting

The IASC Working Group met in an ad hoc meeting on 7 July to discuss the IASC Protection Policy and post-WHS follow-up. The draft policy was broadly welcomed by the Working Group members and the proposed revisions will be reviewed and endorsed electronically. The proposal to review the workplan in view of the WHS outcomes was welcomed, but deferred to a later date, pending finalization of the WHS commitments analysis. The WG endorsed the proposal to have a time-bound Task Team to draft the guidelines for the Charter of Inclusion of Disability in humanitarian action, as launched at the WHS. Finally, the Chair presented a progress update on the IAHE Evaluations on the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Philippines.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

SOUTH SUDAN

In December 2014, fighting in South Sudan escalated due to a political crisis. Within a few months, more than 1.5 million people were displaced inside the country and into neighbouring countries.

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http://www.deliveraidbetter.org/

Farewell for the Chief of the IASC Secretariat

After over two dedicated years leading the IASC secretariat, Astrid van Genderen Stort will be leaving the post at the end of July to take up new challenges at UNHCR. In her farewell message, Astrid said that "My time in the IASC secretariat has been without doubt a fascinating experience. I have been blessed to work with a vibrant, talented inter-agency community at Principals, Working Group and Subsidiary Body level- the community of experts from hundreds of agencies who day in day out do so much great work for the people we care for. I am very proud of what has been achieved over the past years in the IASC world, despite the challenging nature of inter-agency work." At the same time, the ERC has announced that Belinda Holdsworth will succeed Astrid as Chief of the IASC Secretariat as of 1st September.

STAIT website

The STAIT has recently launched a new website which offers audio interviews, animations, video interviews, and learnings - based on missions and experiences from the field. To access the website, please visit deliveraidbetter.org.

IASC PRIORITIES

For more information or to join the groups, please visit the IASC Subsidiary Bodies webpage.

Humanitarian Financing

The Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT) is revising its workplan following WHS through a series of virtual meetings. This work is expected to be completed in August.

Strengthening the Humanitarian/ Development Nexus with a Focus on Protracted Contexts

The IASC Humanitarian Development Nexus Task Team (IASC HDN TT) agreed on various tasks and activities related to strengthening the way humanitarian and development actors' work together in protracted settings. The Terms of Reference are almost finalized now. Meetings were held between the TT and their counterparts in

Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the newly established planning unit in the Secretary-General's office to align work streams and plan for a joint retreat in early September. The TT has worked on defining key normative concepts and mapping existing agency and interagency guidance documents that inform humanitarian work in protracted situations. The Humanitarian and Development Group (HDAG) paper launched at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) in June was shared.

IASC EVENTS

IASC Events are organized on an ad hoc basis by the IASC secretariat in Geneva and New York.

IASC Briefing on Jordan (1 July, New York)

The briefing by Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, focused on the operational challenges in Jordan, innovations that have been applied to address these challenges, the cross-border operations from Jordan to Southern Syria, and the humanitarian situation at the Berm. Despite the ongoing attention to humanitarian needs and follow-up to the commitments and pledges made in London, the UN Country Team has initiated a resilience based approach to planning as a bridge to the humanitarian and development assistance. Mr. Kallon noted that the current situation at the Berm is a true test of the humanitarian principles.

IASC Briefing on the Humanitarian Negotiations Exchange Platform (HNx) (8 July, Geneva)

On 8 July, ICRC colleagues Claude Bruderlein, Head of Project (ICRC HNx and Centre of Competence) and Omar Odeh, Senior Project Officer (ICRC HNx) on Humanitarian Negotiation Exchange Platform (HNx). The HNx Platform has been designed to capture and analyze ICRC's negotiation practices as well as facilitate the sharing of negotiation experiences among ICRC practitioners and beyond, in full respect of the rules of confidentiality of the ICRC. In parallel and following informal consultations on the need to capture and share experience on frontline negotiations, HD, ICRC, MSF, UNHCR and WFP have established a Strategic Partnership to facilitate peer-to-peer interactions among humanitarian professionals active on the frontlines. The presentation is available at the IASC website.

STAIT Webinar on Localisation (19 July)

This month the STAIT held a webinar on localisation in which 200 people attended. The speakers discussed practical steps on taking forward localisation in the field, training and capacity building with governments and local entities, working with the private sector, risk management, and demand vs supply driven responses.

UNDP in Pakistan; and Jamie Isbister, Humanitarian Coordinator and First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Division of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The full localisation webinar can be assessed here. A summary of the webinar will be available on deliveraidbetter.org, later this month. The STAIT appreciates your feedback on their webinars and website. Please email comments to STAIT@un.org.

REPORTS AND STUDIES

The Real-Time Accountability Partnership on GBV in Emergencies

The International Rescue Committee, OCHA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and USAID's Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance are pleased to announce a global, multi-agency initiative on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies, the Real-Time Accountability Partnership (RTAP). This global, multi-agency initiative on addressing gender-based violence in emergencies aims to harness the collective power of the humanitarian community to ensure that all individuals, particularly women and girls, are free from the threat of GBV. Specifically, the RTAP's goal is that all actors prioritize and coordinate GBV response services and integrate GBV prevention across sectors from the outset of an emergency.

The Real-Time Accountability Partnership on GBV in Emergencies In Rwanda, research finds cash assistance for refugees boosts local economy for nearby communities

A recent study conducted by a team of researchers from WFP and the University of California, Davis, provided evidence of the presence of refugees boosting the local economy of host communities, whether it be linked to cash or in-kind assistance. Specifically, researchers focused on three Congolese refugee camps located in Southern Rwanda – Kigeme, Gihembe and Nyabiheke - and measured the local-community impact within a 10-kilometre radius from the camps of different tools for humanitarian assistance, namely in-kind and cash assistance. In Kigeme – the only refugee camp receiving in-kind food assistance – for every dollar's worth of food, the real host-community income increased by $1.19. In Gihembe and Nyabiheke – both receiving cash assistance –, there was a similarly positive correlation between humanitarian assistance and the local economy's wealth, but significantly greater, amounting to $1.51 and $1.95 respectively. Such increase translated into a 63% and 96% rise in the annual income of Rwandan households next to these sites. After the surveys were conducted last year, WFP switched to providing cash instead of food for refugees in Kigeme camp, and the researchers hope to conduct a follow-up study to measure the impact of that change.

Lessons from 14 Countries

In June 2016, WFP, jointly with the World Bank Group and the Partnership for Child Development of the Imperial College of London, published their third analysis on lessons learnt and on best practices for school feeding programmes. The collection of data took place between 2011 and 2014 in 14 countries - Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, and South Africa – and included both primary and secondary data. Evidence shows that school meals are sustainable and widely applied worldwide, but context is key when it comes to chosing between centralized or decentralized approaches, as so it is for the size of the program, or the trade-off between public and private sectors. Features that support the overall effectiveness and quality of such programs are capacity-led planning at the national and sub-national levels, co-ordination supporting cross-sectoral linkages, and mechanisms to ensure accountability and quality assurance. Best practices resulting from the report include the use of food bought locally, such as in Brazil for example; the provision to school targeted children with 30% of the Recommended Dietary Allowance for energy; and the use of a strong country-specific regulatory system to allow good management, as well as to meet institutional goals and standards. The programmes are increasingly also covered by private sector investment.

Early Recovery Online Resource Centre

The interagency Global Cluster for Early Recovery (GCER) has launched a new website to provide more context and information on Early Recovery and to support the humanitarian and development partners to better integrate Early Recovery into their work. The Early Recovery website is an online resource centre based on a modular information architecture that allows the organization, display, and search of documents, guidance, and tools according to the needs of the reader. Two links: "What is Early Recovery" and "Integrating Early Recovery" inform the visitors about the principles of this coordinated approach. The website gives access to an open-source, one-stop shop for documents, tools and guidance on Early Recovery and resilience strengthening in the context of a humanitarian crisis. To visit the new GCER website: www.earlyrecovery.global

World Food Programme launches innovation accelerator to test drive hunger solutions

On July 11th, WFP officially launched its new Innovation Accelerator based in Munich, Germany. As part of its efforts to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 and end hunger by 2030, WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin stressed that "we must capture the benefits of new technologies and the revolution in big data [and] we must boldly seek new ideas, tools and solutions that make more food available, accessible, and ultimately give every person everywhere the ability to feed her or his own children". The Accelerator is a dedicated hub that combines WFP internal staff with experts and entrepreneurs to collaborate on three ideas proposed by WFP innovators for

of Bavaria. Amongst other projects, AgriUP, Share the Meal, Digital Green, Wefarm, SCOPE, and Envisioning were introduced during the live launch in Munich.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASC Meetings & Events

23 August: IASC Ad Hoc Principals L3 Review Syria, Yemen and Iraq
14 September: IASC Ad Hoc Principals follow up June meeting
25-26 October: IASC Working Group meeting
6 December: IASC Principals meeting

Other Events

13-26 September: 71st Session of the UN General Assembly (New York)
19 September: UNGA High-level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants (New York)
20 September: General Debate of the 71st Session of the UNGA and Leaders' Summit on Refugees (New York)
25-29 September: Emergency Team Leadership Programme Workshop (Nairobi)
17-20 October: UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (Quito)
13-17 November: Emergency Team Leadership Programme Workshop (Amman)

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